

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are all the claims presently pending in the application. By this amendment, claims 1, 8, 9, 13, 16, 18, 21, and 25 are amended to recite subject matter which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, and claims 4, 10, 15, and 19-20 are canceled. The amendments introduce no new matter.

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only to assure grammatical and idiomatic English and improved form under United States practice, and are not made to distinguish the invention over the prior art or narrow the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's indication that claims 4, 15, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, for at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants maintain that all claims herein are patentable.

Claim 1 stands objected to. Claim 1 is amended in accord with the Examiner's suggestion. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the objection to claim 1.

Claims 7, 16, 19, and 22-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The claims are amended in accord with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are clearly written as dependent claims. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejections under §112.

Claims 8-12 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. The claims are amended in accord with the Examiner's suggestions. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to

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reconsider and withdraw the rejections under §101.

Claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-14, 16-19, and 21-27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Borders, et al. (US Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0047285), in view of Official Notice.

The prior art rejections are mooted by the present amendment. All claims herein now recite subject matter which the Examiner has indicated to be allowable, or depend from such claims. Thus, all claims herein now incorporate allowable subject matter.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-3, 5-9, 11-14, 16-18, and 21-27, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are allowable, and that the application is in condition for allowance. Such action would be appreciated.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary for allowance in a telephonic or personal interview.

To the extent necessary, Applicant petitions for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency in fees, including extension of time fees, or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Donald A. DiPaula, Esq.
Registration No. 58,115

Sean M. McGinn, Esq.
Registration No. 34,386

McGinn Intellectual Property Law Group, PLLC
8321 Old Courthouse Road, Suite 200
Vienna, VA 22182-3817
(703) 761-4100
Customer No. 21254